pectively, whereat suitable train connections are available for these places.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Opening of Krishi Vigyan Kendras in every district

264. Dr. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to open Krishi Vigyan Kendras in all the districts in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the target date to complete this scheme?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) So far, 105 K.V.Ks have been established in 103 districts in the country. No target date has been fixed for establishing one K.V.K. per district as presently due to dearth of financial resources no more KVKs are being opened.

Redressal of Consumers complaints

265. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Mnister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken to protect the interests of consumers at National, State and District levels;

(b) the number of districts where arrangements have been made to redress the consumers complaints, State-wise; and

(c) what is the outcome of the steps taken to educate the consumers in small towns, rural areas and remote hill areas to enable them to protect themselves from unfair trade practices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) To protect the interests of the consumers, the Government has brought into force the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 which envisages a three tier quasi judicial redressal machinery at national, state and district level. In addition, certain legislations such as Essential Commodities Act, 1955, Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 etc. have been amended to empower consumers to file complaints in the Court. Hitherto, such powers were vested in the Government officials only.

(b) As per information available with Government, the district level redressal agencies *i.e.* District Forums have started functioning in 16 States/UTs, namely, Andhra Pradesh (23 District Forums), Bihar (District Forum), Gujarat (3 District Forums), Goa (1 District Forum), Haryana (2 District Forums). Himachal Pradesh (1 District Forum), Maharashtra (1 District Forum), Orissa (13 District Forums), Rajasthan (6 District Forums), Uttar Pradesh (12 District Forums), West Bengal (3 District Forums), Andaman and Nicobar Islands (2 District Forums), Chandigarh (1 District Forum), Delhi (1 District Forum), Pondicherry (1 District Forum) and Karnataka (4 District Forums). In addition 11 States/UTs have notified the redressal machinery and approval of the Central Government have been conveyed to the remaining 4 States.

(c) As a result of various measures taken by the Government and the Voluntary Organisation an alert consumer is slowly emerging on the scene who is aware of his rights as a consumer.

Sharing of cost of operating calculations Adjudication and enforcement machineries

266. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: